



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL LEADERS TAPPED FOR STATE TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Department of Human Services Commissioner Virginia (Gina) T. Lodge today announced her appointments to the Tennessee Technology Access Project's (TTAP) seventeen member Statewide Advisory Council. The council is charged with developing a strategic plan to provide a comprehensive, statewide system of assistive technology information and acquisition resources as well as advising DHS staff on implementation of that plan. The council also provides general guidance about the assistive technology needs of individuals who have a disability in communities across Tennessee.

"By lending their talents, time and experience, these seventeen council members have made a commitment to help their fellow Tennesseans with disabilities learn about and obtain assistive technology," said Commissioner Lodge. "Each member brings a unique experience, set of skills and knowledge that will prove to be a valuable asset to our state."

TTAP is a federally funded program within the Department of Human Services whose mission is to help individuals with disabilities find—and ultimately obtain—assistive technology devices and services. These tools lead to greater independence for thousands of individuals who have a disability. Last year, approximately 2,500 individuals, families or professionals received training on assistive technology through TTAP.

Examples of assistive technology can be something as simple as using an unbent clothes hanger as a reaching device or as complex as specialized hardware and software that allows those who cannot see access to be able to use a computer.

Consumer members are appointed because, as users of assistive technology, they not only have personal experiences to share, but they also have first hand knowledge of the daily challenges users face finding and obtaining appropriate devices. Agency members are representatives of various state organizations or governmental bodies. The appointments are as follows:

Consumer Members

Mr. Henry Boykins, Memphis
Ms. Pam Bryan, Nashville
Ms. Suzanne Colsey, Memphis
Mr. John Page Garrett, Nashville
Mr. Robert Glutch, Bean Station
Ms. Sandra Hawkins, Memphis
Ms. Cynthia Leatherwood, Nashville
Mr. Allen Scarborough, Chattanooga
Ms. Carol Smith, Knoxville
Mr. Floyd Stewart, Nashville

Agency Members

Ms. Juanita Flakes, DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services
Mr. Jason McAlexander, Statewide Independent Living Council
Ms. Johnnie Wheeler, Upper Cumberland Career Center
Mr. Joseph Fisher, Dept. of Education Division of Special Education
Ms. Leslie Daniels, Disability Law & Advocacy Center
Senator Tommy Kilby, Tennessee Senate
Representative John Hood, Tennessee House of Representatives

For more information on the Tennessee Technology Access Project, visit:

http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/ttap_index.htm

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